

LAST EDITION.

BAKER THE CHIEF ROBBER.

Belief That He Had Misappropriated Funds from Estates in His Hands.

STOLE TO REPLACE THEM.

In Bookkeeper Seely He Found a Willing and Able Accomplice.

IDENTIFIED AS THE \$200 MAN.

Paying Teller Sayres Saw the Body and Recognized It as that of a Daily Customer.

To-day's developments in the \$354,000 defalcation from the National Shoe and Leather Bank may go a great way towards clearing up the mystery as to what has become of the large sum stolen by Assistant Bookkeeper Samuel C. Seely, aided by Lawyer Frederick Baker, who was found drowned in Hempstead Bay last Saturday.

Facts brought to light in connection with the defalcation indicate that Baker was the chief mover in the conspiracy to rob, and that Seely was his cat's-paw. Baker was the trustee for many large estates, and in such capacity handled large sums of money for heirs.

It is now alleged that he misappropriated funds at various times, and in all amount largely in excess of that taken from the bank.

In order to repay the heirs whom he represented it was necessary to enter into a scheme which would be productive of large returns. If he failed to pay the interest and dividends on the estate when they became due the heirs would demand an accounting, and exposure would follow.

It is surmised that he was the originator of the plan to defraud the bank and that he found in Seely a willing tool.

The enormous thefts enabled him to meet all demands promptly, and those who had entrusted property to his care supposed their estates had fallen into excellent hands.

An examination of his books and papers in the safe deposit vault will throw more light on these alleged crooked transactions. If the charges are found to be true, Baker will go upon record as one of the most remarkable defaulters of late years.

Whatever doubt may have existed as to whether Lawyer Frederick Baker, who was found drowned in Hempstead Bay last Saturday, was the customer of the National Shoe and Leather Bank, was effectively dispelled to-day. Gilbert Sayres, paying teller of the bank, went to Sands Point yesterday and positively identified the body as that of the man who for years had drawn sums averaging \$300 almost daily.

Mr. Sayres was at his desk in the bank this morning, and gave to an "Evening World" reporter an account of his trip to Baker's country house.

His Identification of Baker.

"I went down to Sands Point yesterday afternoon," he said, "under the instructions of the officers of the bank to ascertain if Baker was really the man who had been dealing with us all these years."

"I knew him as well by sight as any of our customers, for during the eight years I have been paying teller he has come in two or three times every week with checks to cash."

"The peculiarity of the case is that Baker invariably cashed his checks in person. I cannot remember that I ever held out a single dollar on checks signed by F. Baker excepting to this gentleman in person."

"The amounts varied, but were usually for about \$300. Sometimes they would be as high as \$400, and as I had seen him come in two or three times every week with checks to cash, that was about the average."

Shock for His Son.

"As soon as I put my eyes upon the man I recognized him. He was Frederick Baker, the man who had been dealing with us all these years. He was the man who had been dealing with us all these years. He was the man who had been dealing with us all these years."

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FREDERICK BAKER.

(Bookkeeper Seely's Accomplice.)

Your mind that Baker's account at the bank was not all right?"

"Not the slightest. Once in a while I would ask Seely, the bookkeeper, how his account stood, and as I always received a satisfactory answer, and was told that he had a good balance, I went right on paying the checks when he presented them, never questioning that his standing in the bank was perfectly good."

In view of the denials made by Baker's family and his friends that he ever had any account at the Shoe and Leather Bank, and no one knew that he had any dealings there, this disclosure is regarded by President Crane and the other officers of the bank as a most important development, and detectives are now working upon this basis to ascertain the value of the property which Baker has left, with a view of recovering part, if not all, of the money which the bank has lost.

May Recover Part of the Money.

President Crane was at his desk this morning, and when questioned by a reporter said that although it was yet too soon to say what would be done, he regarded the identification of Baker as Seely's accomplice and confederate as very important in clearing up some of the mystery which surrounds this long-continued stealing from the bank, and might lead to the recovery of a large part of the money.

He was in consultation with Bank Examiner Kimball and half a dozen of the directors of the bank this morning before banking hours, and said that he believed there would be no run upon the bank in consequence of the publicity which had been given to the heavy loss of the institution.

Did Not Fear a Run.

"We have received words of encouragement from several of our largest depositors," he said, "both by letter and in person, that they have no intention of withdrawing their accounts, and several have offered to make heavy deposits in addition, should we need the money."

Bigger than He Used to Be.

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curiously much. I thought they had some real estate transactions."

Kagel Asks About His Father's Estate.

While talking with Gen. Merritt, August Kagel, of West Brighton, S. I., came into Baker's office and wanted to know where the papers were which related to his father's estate, which had been in Baker's hands.

Mr. Merritt told him the papers were undoubtedly all right and would be found in the book of the National Park Bank Safety Deposit vaults, which would probably be examined later in the day, when Mr. Baker's son appeared.

Mr. Kagel was hardly satisfied, and seemed to be very anxious about the matter. He said the reporter that his father, Gottlieb Kagel, who died about a year ago, had made Lawyer Baker his executor, and that the property included a house at 23 Mott street, another on Jersey City Heights, a mortgage for \$11,000 and 80 shares of the Chatham National Bank stock. Mr. Baker used to collect all the rents and the dividends and interest. He said he had the full and complete confidence in the lawyer's honesty, and believed that his deed and stock would all be found safely taken care of.

Gen. Merritt, who says he was brevetted a Brigadier-General in 1864, when he received his discharge from the army after the close of the war, and was at the time in command of the First Division of the Nineteenth Army Corps, seemed to be the only person in authority at the office of the Bakers this morning.

Value of Baker's Property.

He gave the following estimate of the value of the property once owned by Baker and himself jointly, but which has all been transferred either to Mrs. Baker or to her sons, Frederick R. and George L., and the daughter, Florence Baker, during the past year:

25 West Seventeenth street, the house in which the family lived..... \$23,000
517 East Eleventh street..... 23,000
23 East Eleventh street..... 23,000
51 East Eleventh street..... 23,000
47 Lewis street..... 21,500
28 Avenue B..... 14,000
105, 107 and 109 Clinton street and 344 Decker street..... 135,000
80 St. Marks place..... 20,000
18 Seventh avenue, Hudson city..... 20,000
Sands Point property, 80 acres..... 25,000
Total..... \$454,500

It was said that outside of this Mr. Baker might have other valuable property, but Gen. Merritt did not know what it might be worth.

Shares Transferred.

After calling at Baker's office early in the morning, August Kagel, whose father's estate had been in Baker's hands ever since 1875, went over to the Chatham National Bank to find out who had become the owner of the shares of the stock which his father had left to him. He said he was very much surprised to find that the shares had been regularly paying him dividends.

He was astonished to learn from the book of the National Park Bank that the shares had been transferred from his father's estate away back in May, 1875, and that none of them had been paid to him. He said he was very much surprised to find that the shares had been regularly paying him dividends.

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NEW YORK, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1894.

Blinders for Officers.

THIS IS OK
I AM BLIND
U.S. EXAMINER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CASHIER

COMICAL NATIONAL BANK

STEALING

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Princess Alix Wedded to the Czar Nicholas II.

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